

Prevent Damage to the Sewer System

FOG enters your plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks and dishwashers. FOG coats the inside of your plumbing drain pipes and then empties into the Fulton County sewer system. Think of FOG as “hardening of the arteries.” When cholesterol builds up in the human bloodstream, it causes a heart attack. When FOG hardens in the sewer, it causes a sanitary system overflow.

Don't Pour FOG Down the Drain

Fats, oils and grease entering the sewer system increase the cost of maintaining and operating water and sewer services. The increased cost is ultimately passed on to you, the consumer. Follow These Easy Steps For Disposal: Stop and Think, Not Down the Sink!

- Allow FOG to cool and place in a sealed container. Place the container in garbage.
- Wipe and scrape excess FOG from plates, pots, pans, utensils and cooking surfaces before washing.
- Put greasy paper towels in the garbage.
- Don't flush grease down drains with hot water.
- Don't unnecessarily dispose of foods in garbage disposals

Environmental Impacts of FOG

Sanitary sewer overflows not only cost residents financially, they also have a negative impact on the environment through the contamination of natural waterways. Overflowed sewage flows into storm drains and into ponds, streams and rivers. This can destroy aquatic life and cause health risk concerns for residents using these waterways for recreational activities. Backed-up sewage and accumulated food residue are perfect breeding grounds for bacteria, insects and other vermin.



Sandy Springs resident, Melanie Noble-Couchman, was named the 2011 recipient of the Humanitarian Award. Pictured (l-r) at the Sixth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration are Keynote Speaker Rep. Melvin Everson, Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos, Honoree Melanie Noble-Couchman and Councilmember Dianne Fries.

Noble-Couchman Named Humanitarian Award Winner

Sandy Springs resident, Melanie Noble-Couchman, has been named the 2011 recipient of the Humanitarian Award. This is the fifth time the City has given the award that embodies the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and recognizes an individual for his or her humanitarian contributions to society and philanthropic work. A volunteer committee made the selection.

Noble-Couchman began her career as a technical writer for a major bank in Buffalo, N.Y. As a single mother on public assistance and food stamps, she raised two sons. By realizing the importance of education, she did everything she could to obtain her bachelor's degree from SUNY at Buffalo. In 1978, she moved to Atlanta to work for a major software company, where she met her future husband, David.

As the company became more successful, the Couchmans knew they wanted to become more involved in the community. In 2003, the couple founded the Couchman-Noble Foundation to share with others less fortunate.

Melanie committed time and funds to revitalize the Sandy Springs Education Force (SSEF), which supports the educational needs of youth in Sandy Springs. Melanie also brought the Geek Squad Summer Academy to Sandy Springs. It is a national program sponsored by Best Buy that teaches underserved youth the importance of technology. She was a catalyst in bringing the After School All Stars to Sandy Springs Middle School, a national program begun by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife Maria Shriver. Since 2005, she has worked with HomeStretch and is also on the board of the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta-North Fulton Fund.

The event featured choral tributes, guest choirs and keynote speaker, Rep. Melvin Everson. Everson was elected to the Snellville City Council, making him the first elected black official in the history of Snellville, and he is now the new director of the Governor's Office on Workforce Development under Governor Nathan Deal.

"Nixle"ing, continued from page 3

Currently, Sandy Springs Police Department has approximately 600 residents and businesses that receive Nixle alerts. To sign up, visit www.nixle.com, and follow the prompts. If you need assistance, contact Officer David Johns at david.johns@sandyspringsga.org.

Nixle is being used by more than 4,600 agencies in all 50 States. It is optimized for use on a broad range of mobile platforms including iPhone®, BlackBerry®, Android™, Windows Mobile and Symbian.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org
Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770-730-5600

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting the ADA Compliance Officer at 770-206-1544.

A Message From the City Manager



Sandy Springs prides itself on our responsiveness to meet the needs of the community. To accomplish this goal, it is important that we receive feedback from you. Your input is invaluable. It allows us to adjust our course of action and better meet the needs of our community.

The City of Sandy Springs participated in the 2010 National Citizen Survey to assess our progress. The survey is a collaborative effort between the National Research Center, Inc. and the International City/County Management Association. The City received a \$5,000 grant to fund our participation.

Most Sandy Springs residents rated their quality of life as excellent or good and gave high rankings to our public safety services. Our ambulance service provider, Rural/Metro, ranked number one out of 47 comparable cities.

Highlights from the survey results include:

- Fire services: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 94 percent of respondents making us #2 of 50 comparable cities*;
 - Of 10 percent who had contact with the Fire Department in the past year, 86 percent reported a positive overall impression of the meeting.
- Police services: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 89 percent of respondents (#3 of 56 comparable cities*);
 - Of 37 percent who had contact with the Police Department in the past year, 88 percent had a positive overall impression of the meeting.
- Overall direction of the City: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 76 percent of respondents (#3 of 41 comparable cities*);
- City employees: 79 percent of respondents rated their overall impression of employees as either “excellent” or “good” (#6 of 53 comparable cities*);
- Cleanliness of Sandy Springs: rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75 percent of respondents (#8 of 27 comparable cities*);
 - Only 5 percent of respondents see rundown buildings, weed lots and junk vehicles as a “major” problem—3rd lowest of comparable cities); and
- Public trust: Overall image of Sandy Springs rated as “excellent” or “good” by 75 percent of respondents (#9 of 35 comparable cities*).

As your City Manager, it is gratifying to see these positive results. The feedback we received from residents validates the direction in which the City is moving. However, we always have room for improvement, and the survey provided valuable information on areas that need additional attention.

If you participated in the survey, please accept my thanks.

If you are interested in reading the results of the survey, please visit our website at www.sandyspringsga.org/citizensurvey.

John F. McDonough

John McDonough, City Manager
City of Sandy Springs



*Comparable cities are those with populations of 70,000-150,000 that have participated in the National Citizens Survey.

District 4 Special Election Held March 15

The City of Sandy Springs will hold a special election on March 15, 2011, to fill the seat left vacant by District 4 Councilmember Ashley Jenkins. Jenkins resigned on January 21, 2011, to pursue career interests in the travel industry. If needed, a runoff will be held on April 12, 2011. Only voters in District 4 may vote in this election. Voters may cast their ballot in their regular polling places.

The Fulton County Department of Registration and Elections Voter Division (404-730-7072) handles voter registration for all Fulton County residents regardless of the city or unincorporated area where a person resides.

For more information on the upcoming election or the City of Sandy Springs, visit www.sandyspringsga.org or call 770-730-5600. For more information on voter registration, contact the Fulton County Voter Registration Office (404) 730-7072. To find out what precinct a voter votes in, contact the Fulton County Board of Elections at (404) 612-7020 or go to: www.sos.ga.gov/mvp.

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Public Works Fills Need in Winter Storm



Sandy Springs Public Works crews cleared major roads, such as Johnson Ferry (pictured here), Roswell and Abernathy Roads. It is essential for these roads to be clear for emergency vehicles to reach residents.

When the City was hit by snow and ice in January, the first priority of the Sandy Springs Public Works Department was to clear the major thoroughfares such as Roswell, Abernathy and Peachtree Dunwoody Roads. It is essential for emergency vehicles to reach residents throughout the City. Sandy Springs is home to the Metro's largest concentration of hospitals and the entire region relies on the City to provide access to them.

Partnership With Hitson Memorial Center Expands Program Offerings

The City of Sandy Springs recently signed a contract with the Sandy Springs United Methodist Church for use of their Hitson Memorial Center. This is the first contract for use of a recreational facility for the City of Sandy Springs and its Recreation and Parks Department, although the City has numerous inter-governmental agreements with the local schools.

“The Recreation and Parks Department has little indoor space to offer leisure services, so we utilized the schools and now will use the Sandy Springs United Methodist Hitson Memorial Center to make up for the lack of space,” said Recreation and Parks Director Ronnie Young. “This great partnership will lead to tremendous opportunities for expanding our program offerings most any time of day.”

The Recreation and Parks Department offered its first free event at the Hitson Memorial Center on January 28, 2011, when more than 600 residents attended the Winter Festival. The Department is currently investigating starting new programming and special interest classes. Special needs tennis will be held in the gym as will special needs basketball skills training to assist in preparing special needs children to compete in regional and state competitions.

The City's Public Works Department began preparations for that Sunday's snow and ice storm by calling operators of sand trucks and graders and keeping them on retainer. Also on duty were seven crews on two sand trucks, two motorgraders and two hand crews. By the time the storm hit, most thoroughfares had been pre-treated, which helped prolong the snow from turning into ice.

From Sunday through Friday night, more than 1,400 tons of salt and sand were spread throughout the City on approximately 74 miles of roadways. Motorgraders worked 24 hours a day to clear the snow and ice. As the majority of collectors and arterials were made passable, public safety staff responded to more than 100 emergency calls.

Due to the severe conditions on I-285 during the afternoon of January 11, 2011, Sandy Springs crews covered the Interstate west of Roswell Road where several problems hampered large-truck traffic. The local response, rather than waiting for the GDOT response, which was several hours away, resulted in the Interstate lanes remaining open. Several other jurisdictions had to shut down sections of I-285. By the evening of Thursday, January 13th, 36 roads had been treated and 18 more were in the cue for treatment or immediate treatment. While subdivision streets were icy, these actions kept the City of Sandy Springs open and accessible for the public who needed to travel the main arteries of the City.

The Department will also be starting a program called START SMART, which targets three to five year olds and their dads or father figures for learning the basics of several sports.

The 46,000-square-foot Hitson Memorial Center was constructed in 1986 and contains meeting rooms, special interest program rooms, an art room, two kitchens, an elevated walking/running track, restrooms, offices and a full size gymnasium. Facility rental will soon be available.

For information about rental fees for the Sandy Springs United Methodist Hitson Memorial Center, contact the Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department at 770-206-2039.



The Hitson Memorial Center's Gym will allow the City to offer a variety of new programming and special interest classes.

Fire Department Provides Training for Animal Emergencies

World-renowned dog Trainer Victoria Stillwell was at Sandy Springs Fire Station 4 along with Certified Professional Dog Trainer Joyce Hagan, CPDT-KA, to teach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members how to handle dogs in emergency situations. Emergencies like fires, floods or tornadoes can often overwhelm local animal control, and public safety officials, along with trained volunteers, may help in these situations.

“The purpose of the class was three-fold,” said Hagan. “One was to focus on reading the body language of dogs. Second, we wanted to get the CERT people trained for animal emergencies, and third, we wanted to make recommendations for what's on fire trucks so fire fighters can handle animals in an emergency. They have all had this training, too.”

“I want to start a full-scale animal disaster relief program in Sandy Springs,” Hagan continued. “Other cities have them, so we're not totally reinventing the wheel, we just have to do a little grunt work, and we need volunteers and more people to take the course. We want to be proactive.”

The class taught how a person's attitude affects the dog. A dog views an unfamiliar person as an intruder; therefore, a person must be cautious and calm and respect a dog. The class also went over canine communication and observing and interpreting canine body postures. The class focused on how the choices you make versus the choices the dog makes will result in a happy ending. If the ending should be unhappy, instructors also went over what to do when being bitten.



World-renowned dog Trainer Victoria Stillwell (left) and Certified Professional Dog Trainer Joyce Hagan (second from right) show class members Cindy Mulligan and Terri Brooks (right) how to put a temporary muzzle on a dog in an emergency situation.

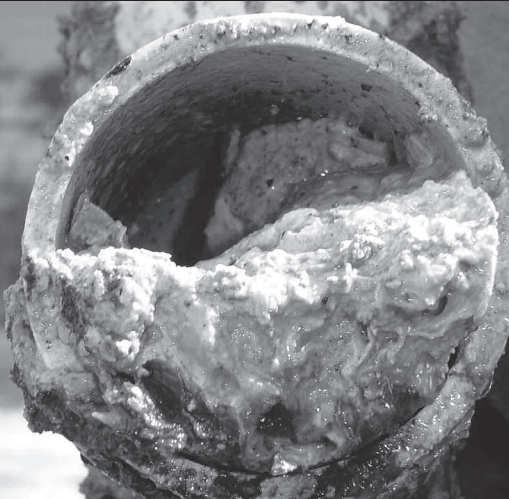
The next Bite Prevention/Animal Disaster class will be held March 26, 2011, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Sandy Springs Fire Station 4 at 4697 Wieuca Road. CERT training is not a prerequisite for this class. For more information or to sign up, contact Capt. James Laudermilk james.laudermilk@sandyspringsga.org.

Are You “Nixle”ing?

The Sandy Springs Police Department is encouraging the public to sign up for a new, free service they are offering called Nixle. Nixle is a communications network that sends information from the Department by text message, e-mail or via the Internet. The Department sends out four types of messages:

- ALERT – This is time sensitive information that needs to be distributed ASAP.
- ADVISORY – This is also sensitive information but not as “time” sensitive.
- COMMUNITY – This is information regarding meetings with SSPD or events.
- TRAFFIC – This is information regarding traffic issues inside the City of Sandy Springs.

“The benefit of signing up for Nixle is it provides our residents and the public real-time information on everything from traffic problems to crime incidents to public service announcements right to their hand-held device or to their e-mail,” said Sandy Springs Chief of Police Terry Sult.



Fats, oils and grease enter your plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks and dishwashers. FOG coats the inside of your plumbing drain pipes and then empty into the Fulton County sewer system and can create health hazards and threaten the natural environment.

Help Control FOG

The City of Sandy Springs needs your help to control FOG. FOG, or fats, oils and grease cost Sandy Springs taxpayers thousands of dollars every year because of the damage caused to sanitary sewer lines. The impacted lines cause sanitary sewer manhole overflows and sewage back-ups in both residential and commercial areas. Sewer back-ups damage City infrastructure, create health hazards and threaten the natural environment. Ultimately, it is the residents of Sandy Springs that bear the unnecessary cost of cleanup and repair.

Where Does FOG Come From?

Fats, oils and grease are by-products of many foods and are used in the cooking of food. Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oil. Grease can be found in foods such as:

- Meats
- Sauces
- Marinades
- Salad dressings
- Mayonnaise
- Gravy
- Cooking Oils
- Cookies and pastries
- Cheese
- Butter and margarine
- Shortening
- Ice cream

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